

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 3 (Cancelled).

4. (New) A stepping motor, comprising: a stator blade made of soft magnetic materials and incorporating three narrow grooves therein, each of the grooves having front ends; a permanent magnet rotor having a rotor axis and being accommodated within a rotor hole located at a center position of the stator blade, the rotor hole having a vertical cross section approximating a circle except for straight-line sections, each of which is disposed about the rotor hole in a location so as to be proximate and perpendicular to a respective one of the narrow grooves in the stator blade, which grooves are each disposed at an angle of 120° to one another along a radial direction of the rotor; and coils disposed along two sides of the stator blade.

5. (New) The stepping motor of claim 4, wherein a distance from each of the respective front ends of the narrow grooves to a center of the rotor axis is equal.